

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 01885 101946Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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O 101930Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO AMEMBASSY BONN NIACT IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0466

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 1885

EXDIS

FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FROM CRIMMINS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PARM, TECH, BR, GW

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF NUCLEAR MATTERS DURING MATHIAS'
VISIT

1. SENATOR MATHIAS' MARCH 7 MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
SILVEIRA, WHICH I ATTENDED AND WHICH LASTED ABOUT A HALF
HOUR, WAS A ROUTINE COURTESY CALL.

2. SILVEIRA DISCUSSED THE NUCLEAR QUESTION IN TERMS
ENTIRELY CONSISTENT WITH THE STANDARD GOB PUBLIC POSITION.
AMONG OTHER WELL-KNOWN FORMULATIONS, HE REFERRED TO
BRAZILIAN SUPPORT FOR THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR
WEAPONS, SAYING THAT SAFEGUARDS WERE THE KEY AND THAT THIS
WAS A QUESTION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE
AND NOT FOR ONE COUNTRY TO DECIDE.

2. SENATOR MATHIAS RESTRICTED HIMSELF TO VERY GENERAL
COMMENTS.

3. SENATOR MATHIAS ALSO PAID A CALL ON MINES AND ENERGY
MINISTER UEKI, WHO SPOKE ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE MOTIVES
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FOR AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE GOB-FRG AGREEMENT IN STANDARD
TERMS, EXCEPT THAT HE MENTIONED IN A CERTAIN DETAIL THE
GREAT SECRECY THAT SURROUNDED THE NEGOTIATIONS, REFERRING
WITH WHAT APPEARED TO BE PERSONAL SATISFACTION TO HIS
OWN "SECRET" SEVEN DAY TRIP TO BONN. HE EXPLAINED THAT
BOTH THE FRG AND GOB HAD ADOPTED THE HIGH SECURITY MEASURES
BECAUSE THEY REALIZED THAT THE AGREEMENT WOULD BE THE FIRST

AND THE LAST OF ITS NATURE AND SCOPE, BECAUSE THE REACTION AROUND THE WORLD WOULD BE SO STRONG WHEN IT BECAME KNOWN. UEKI CONCLUDED THAT THE AGREEMENT WOULD NOT AND COULD NOT BE CHANGED IN ANY RESPECT.

4. SENATOR MATHIAS'S COMMENTS AGAIN WERE VERY GENERAL AND HE RESTRICTED HIMSELF TO LISTENING. HE DID COMMENT TO ME LATER THAT UEKI MUST HAVE REALIZED THAT HIS REFERENCE TO "THE FIRST AND LAST AGREEMENT" COULD ONLY FEED SUSPICION.

5. IN HIS MEETINGS WITH THE PRESS, PARTICULARLY DURING A MARCH 8 PRESS CONFERENCE IN THE EMBASSY, SENATOR MATHIAS HIGHLIGHTED U.S. CONCERNS ABOUT PROLIFERATION AND EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF BRAZIL'S ENERGY PROBLEMS. THE SENATOR SAID: "THE GOVERNMENT OF THE U.S. WANTS TO COOPERATE WITH BRAZIL IN DEVELOPING NUCLEAR ENERGY. WHAT WE DO NOT WANT AS A NATION IS TO SEE THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. AND WE ARE, THEREFORE, RELUCTANT TO SEE THE EMPLOYMENT OF A PROCESS AND THE EMPLOYMENT OF TECHNOLOGY AND METHODOLOGY WHICH COULD LEAD TO THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS." THE SENATOR ADDED THAT BRAZIL CAN COUNT ON U.S. SUPPORT IN OTHER SECTORS OF NUCLEAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT BESIDES ENRICHMENT AND REPROCESSING. THE SENATOR ALSO APOKE IN FAVOR OF STRENGTHENING THE IAEA. HE SAID LDC'S WITHOUT NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY HAVE THE RIGHT TO EXPECT THE U.S. AND USSR TO REDUCE THEIR STOCKS OF NUCLEAR ARMS. REGARDING THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S CONVERSATIONS WITH THE GOB, THE SENATOR EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THEY CONTINUE, SO
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THAT AN UNDERSTANDING CAN BE REACHED. THE SENATOR CLOSED BY SAYING THAT THE U.S. IS PERFECTLY CONSCIOUS OF BRAZIL'S DILEMMA REGARDING ENERGY SOURCES, A PROBLEM THE U.S. SHARES, AND THEREFORE BRAZIL CAN COUNT ON FULL U.S. COOPERATION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR COOPERATION PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BRASIL01885
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770083-0212
Format: TEL
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770375/aaaacnpc.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b8b7d1ba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3154537
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISCUSSION OF NUCLEAR MATTERS DURING MATHIAS' VISIT
TAGS: ENRG, PARM, TECH, OREP, BR, GE, US, (MATHIAS)
To: BONN STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b8b7d1ba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009